US-2020-2

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, April 24, 2020, at 2 p.m.
via Zoom Video Conferencing

PRESENT

Voting members: Graham Carr *(Chair)*; Ali Akgunduz; Bakry Alsaieq; Shimon Amir; Amir Asif; Maryam Bagherzadeh; Leslie Barker; Guylaine Beaudry; Pascale Biron; Elizabeth Bloodgood; Catherine Bolton; Sue Callender; Sally Cooke; Frank Crooks; Anne-Marie Croteau; Ricardo Dal Farra; Alex De Visscher; Effrosyni Diamantoudi; Rebecca Duclos; Linda Dyer; Medhi Farashahi; Ariela Freedman; Vince Graziano; Jarrad Hass; Chris Kalafatidis; Esther Morand; Helena Osana; Karan Pande; Gilles Peslherbe; Colin Philip; John Potvin; Martin Pugh; Patrick Quinn; Marguerite Rolland; André Roy; Timir Baran Roy; Bayan Abu Safieh; Matt Soar; Reza Soleymani; Robert Soroka; Marc Steinberg; Ron Stern; Alex Stojda; Marlena Valenta; Victoria Videira; Jean-Philippe Warren; Anne Whitelaw; Paula Wood-Adams; Radu Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beauregard; Paul Chesser; Denis Cossette; Roger Côté; Stéphanie de Celles; Isabel Dunnigan; Nadia Hardy; Tom Hughes; Candace Jacobs; Frederica Jacobs

ABSENT

Voting members: Matthew Barker; Christopher Brett; Maha Siddiqui

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2020-2-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 24, 2020

R-2020-2-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 24, 2020, be approved.*

2. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

3. Research Committee recommendations

3.1 Policy revisions: Policy on Conflict of Interest in Research (VPRGS-5) and Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research (VPRGS-12) (Document US-2020-2-D1)

Dr. Wood-Adams conveyed to Senate that minor revisions were made to the two policies in order to ensure consistency with the recently revised Policy on Conflict of Interest (BD-4).

R-2020-2-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Research Committee, Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on Conflict of Interest in Research (VPRGS-5) and Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research (VPRGS-12).*

3.2 University recognition of Research Units: Indigenous Futures Research Centre (IFRC) and Security Research Centre (SRC) (Document US-2020-2-D2)

Dr. Wood-Adams introduced the item, after which each director described the respective center they are leading.

Jason Lewis explained that the IFRC plays an important role in catalyzing innovative research in the area of Indigenous research-creation and promoting unique research opportunities for faculty and non-faculty.

Mourad Debbabi explained that the SRC has the largest research capacity in cybersecurity in Quebec and Canada with strong ties with the government and industries. The Center is well funded with 18 faculty researchers from three faculties.

R-2020-2-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Research Committee, Senate grant the university-recognized status, in the category of emerging research centre, to the Indigenous Futures Research Centre (IFRC), in accordance with the Policy on Research Units (VPRGS-8).*

R-2020-2-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Research Committee, Senate grant the university-recognized status, in the category of established research centre, to the Security*

Research Center (SRC), in accordance with the Policy on Research Units (VPRGS-8).

3.3 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan for the Canada Research Chairs Programs (Document US-2020-2-D3)

Dr. Wood-Adams recalled that the initial version of the EDI Plan had been submitted to Senate in January 2018 but had not been approved by the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Secretariat. The Plan was subsequently revised and resubmitted last September, following which the University received the "fully satisfies" rating. She explained that Senate's approval is being sought, but the Plan will continue to evolve as CRC Programs change.

R-2020-2-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was resolved that, on recommendation of the Research Committee, Senate approve the final version of Concordia's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.*

CONSENT

4. Committee reports
4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2020-2-D4)
4.2 Library (Document US-2020-2-D5)

These reports were submitted for information purposes.

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2020-2-D6)

R-2020-2-7 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2020-2-D6, be approved.*

6. Academic Programs Committee – Report and recommendations (Document US-2020-2-D7)

6.1 Undergraduate curriculum proposal – Faculty of Arts and Science – Department of English (Document US-2020-2-D8)

R-2020-2-8 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved.*

6.2 Undergraduate curriculum proposal – Faculty of Fine Arts -Department of Studio Arts (Document US-2020-2-D9)

R-2020-2-9 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Fine Arts be approved.*

6.3 Undergraduate curriculum proposal – Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science – Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (Document US-2020-2-D10)

R-2020-2-10 That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science be approved.

6.4 Graduate curriculum proposals – Faculty of Arts and Science
6.4.1 Department of Applied Human Sciences (Document US-2020-2-D11)
6.4.2 Department of English (Document US-2020-2-D12)
6.4.3 Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology (Document US-2020-2-D13)

R-2020-2-11 That the graduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved.

6.5 Graduate curriculum proposals – Faculty of Fine Arts
6.5.1 Department of Art Education (Document US-2020-2-D14)
6.5.2 Department of Creative Arts Therapies (Document US-2020-2-D15)

R-2020-2-12 That the graduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Fine Arts be approved.

6.6 Graduate curriculum proposals – Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science
6.6.1 Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (Documents US-2020-2-D16 and D17)
6.6.2 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2020-2-D18)

R-2020-2-13 That the graduate curriculum proposals in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science be approved.

6.7 Graduate curriculum proposals – John Molson School of Business
6.7.1 Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (Document US-2020-2-D19)
6.7.2 Department of Supply Chain and Business Technology Management (Document US-2020-2-D20)

R-2020-2-14 That the graduate curriculum proposals in the John Molson School of Business be approved.

6.8 Graduate curriculum proposal - Institute for Co-operative Education – Requirements (Document US-2020-2-D21)

R-2020-2-15 That the graduate curriculum proposals in the Institute for Co-operative Education be approved.

7. Graduate calendar regular changes (Document US-2020-2-D22)

This document was submitted for information purposes.

REGULAR

8. Update on COVID-19

Before providing the update on COVID-19, the President shared some University updates with Senate. The highlights of his remarks are summarized as follows:

- Dr. Wood-Adams and Dr. Diamantoudi were respectively appointed as interim Vice-President Research and Graduate Studies and interim Dean of Graduate Studies.
- Pascale Sicotte and Annie Gérin were respectively appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts. Both begin their mandates on August 1.
- Today is Dean Asif's last Senate meeting as he is leaving the University on May 1 to be Vice-President of Research & Innovation at York University. Dr. Carr acknowledged his remarkable tenure at the University and informed Senate that Dr. Debbabi has been appointed as interim Dean.
- Dean Roy has been appointed as inaugural President of the *Université de l'Ontario français*. Dr. Carr congratulated him and mentioned Dean Roy has one last Senate meeting to attend.
- Concordia's Institute of Investigative Journalism, led by Patti Sonntag, earned the Dan McArthur Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) for its work with the "Tainted H2O" project.
- Aphrodite Salas and a team of Department of Journalism students also earned a prestigious RTDNA honour for a project on the creation of a solar micro-grid in Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek-Gull Bay First Nation.
- The Times Higher Education Impact Assessment ranked Concordia among the world's top 20 universities for its work on sustainable cities and communities and climate change.

Dr. Carr then proceeded with the COVID-19 update. The highlights of his update are summarized as follows:

- In the past 6 weeks, the University was forced to make difficult decisions in the context of the crisis, but Dr. Carr reiterated his thanks to the community for making such a collective effort to navigate through theses challenges.
- Dr. Carr summarized the work that has been accomplished since the outset of the crisis in early January 2020, noting that the actions of the University were driven by the following priorities:
    - Protect the health and safety of the community;
    - Deliver the semester and allow students to complete their courses; and
    - Serve the larger Montreal and Quebec community through our expertise and volunteerism.
- Following the government announcement, the University suspended in-person classes for the remainder of the semester and suspended all teaching for one week, during which more than 1300 faculty members were trained by

CTL in order to resume online course delivery. More than 2000 courses were moved to remote delivery within that week.

- The shutdown of campuses had a disruptive effect on research, but the government directives were very clear and only COVID-19 research labs and few other exceptional cases are allowed to stay open.
- One of Concordia's labs in GCS is used as national test site for Quebec-made masks.
- On the advice of Santé publique, the University took the decision to reduce the number of students in residence. The University helped students return home and find alternative accommodation. Today, approximately 50 students, many of whom are international students unable to travel, are still in residence. They continue to be supported by the university. Measures have been put in place to ensure that public safety guidelines are respected.
- The move to online courses led to a series of other academic decisions. The principle was to be as flexible and accommodating as possible while respecting both academic freedom of faculty with regards to course-related matters and needs of students coping with a challenging reality. The University instituted a pass/fail notation, extended the late DISC deadline and allowed a 50% rebate on late DISCs, the most generous provision of any Quebec university.
- In support for students in financial difficulty, University Advancement launched the COVID-19 Emergency Student Relief fund.
- Externally, like many other universities, Concordia lobbied provincial and federal governments to relax deadlines on student loan repayment and to provide financial support for students.
- Further supportive measures include counselling and psychological services through Campus Wellness. The Student Success Center moved its academic assistance services online, and the Birks Student Services Centres remains accessible through phone and email.
- The University decided to suspend the June Convocation and is now exploring opportunities to conduct a different kind of ceremony.
- To help the community cope with requirements of self-isolation, Concordia launched CU at Home. This virtual community supports students, staff, faculty and alumni. It had thousands of hits in a matter of days.
- The University has maintained regular communication with the community with a FAQ page, a COVID-19 web page and regular messages to the community either in writing or by video.
- To contribute to the relief effort in the community at large, Concordia released its UNESCO Prize-winning literacy software, ABRACADBRA and READS, through the Ministry of Education's Open School portal, which provides primary education online and created components for PPE, among other initiatives.
- Dr. Carr reached out to the external community including the *Chambre de commerce* and has a call scheduled with the City of Montreal to reiterate the University's commitment to its partners and put its expertise to the service of the community.

- Concordia's researchers are collaborating with government and industry to contribute expertise in areas that include cybersecurity, supply chain and business technology management, social entrepreneurship and technology-driven inclusion of older adults.
- As part of the Montreal Behavioural Medicine Centre, Concordia launched iCARE, a global online survey looking at how countries and citizens are responding to COVID-19.
- Concordia's ACT project is supporting grocery delivery to seniors in NDG.
- Concordia's LIVE Centre and University Advancement have launched CU Cares. Members can register with CU Cares online to receive targeted volunteer opportunities.
- In terms of the future, the short-term plan includes the planning of a graduated return to work and school, health and safety being the first priority. Dr. Carr explained that the return needs to be coordinated with many different groups, such as public transportation, schools and daycares and enormous ranges of considerations need to be taken into account. The University also needs to assess its finances and explore mitigation plans. The summer classes will be delivered online and fall admissions are being processed. The challenge is to figure out how the University will deliver this education in the fall.

Further to Dr. Carr's presentation, Mr. Côté responded to a question regarding privacy and security issues with the Zoom application and apprised Senate that regular security updates are done on University devices and that individuals are asked to update their personal computer as well as the applications regularly. He also shared other measures being implemented to secure the use of Zoom and other applications.

In response to a concern regarding access to research labs, Dr. Carr and Dr. Wood-Adams informed Senate that they understand the damaging effect on research and that the University is in communication with government authorities to ask them to prioritize research labs when reopening certain sectors of activities. However, they reiterated that for the moment, only COVID-19-related research labs are allowed to function and the return to research will be gradual.

Following concerns raised for international students facing financial difficulties, Dr. Carr conveyed to Senate that the payment of tuition fees have been delayed by one semester and that the University is providing ancillary services to help international students. Dr. Carr reiterated that the University is lobbying both levels of government to provide support to international students, and the recent series of announcement by the federal government are a positive sign. The University continues to look at ways it can provide support to its international students, which will also depend on the University financial situation.

9. Question period

No questions were asked.

10. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

11. Adjournment

Dr. Carr reiterated thanks to the members of his team as well as to the whole community for their work during the crisis, further to which he declared the meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

D. Tessier

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate